

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1909.

WM. L. BYHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sunbury-on-Thames,
Middlesex.

MARCH 8TH, 1910.

"Middlesex Chronicle" Office, High Street, Staines.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1909.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the District, incorporated with which are the vital statistics for the year 1909 and previous years, and an account of the sanitary work which has been carried out.

Births.—There have been 118 births registered in the district—61 males and 57 females—giving a birth-rate of 24.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is practically stationary at the present time, and is estimated to be 4,730. This is a slight increase on last year, and approximates the average for the preceding ten years, which is 27.9.

Deaths.—There have been somewhat fewer deaths recorded than last year, namely, 56 against 64, and these include 8 deaths of Sunbury residents which occurred outside the district. The rate is 11.8 per 1,000 of estimated population—somewhat lower than last year, when it was 13.5; and of these 19 occurred in persons over 65 years of age.

Infant Mortality.—During the present, and for several past years, there has been a marked decrease in the infant mortality of the neighbourhood. There have been 9 deaths of children under 1 year of age, and the rate is 76.2 per 1,000 births registered.

A table is here inserted, for convenience of comparison between the local birth and death rates, and those of the whole County of Middlesex, and England and Wales, respectively, for the year 1908:—

	England		
	Sunbury, 1909.	Middlesex, 1908.	and Wales, 1908.
Birth Rate	24.9	25.5	26.5
Average, 1899—1908 ...	27.9	.....	.....
Death Rate	11.8	11.4	14.7
Average, 1899—1908 ...	13.8	.....	.....
Infant Mortality Rate ..	76.2	95	121
Average, 1899—1908 ...	103.2	.....	.....

In reviewing the general health of the district it may be said that the year, as a whole, has proved to be a healthy one. The absence of great heat, with a considerable rainfall, and a relatively less amount of dust, is probably, in a measure, responsible for this. The marked improvement in those portions of the road treated with Tarmac, and, in a less degree, those which have been tar-sprayed, should be an incentive to further extension in this direction when possible, as there is no doubt that the sanitary condition of the roads has a great bearing on public health. There was during the year practically an entire absence of summer diarrhœa, and no undue preponderance of Affections of the Respiratory Tract.

Until towards the end of the year the district was virtually free from infectious and contagious disease, notifiable or otherwise. From January 1st to December 6th only two very mild cases of scarlet fever were reported, and four of erysipelas—a peculiarly satisfactory state of things.—From early in December to the end of the year 7 cases of diphtheria were reported, and, with one exception, they were of a mild type, or at all events, under the free and early use of serum provided by the Council in deserving cases, no very serious symptoms developed. As regards the origin of this outbreak, it is difficult to suggest a probable cause, but it would appear to have some reference to the height attained by the subsoil water, in consequence of much rain about the time of the commencement of the outbreak.

The early cases, however, were not detected before others had contracted the disease, and the want of means for isolation was much felt. In an endeavour to check the spread of infection a systematic examination of children attending school was made, and by consent of the Council, swabs were taken for bacteriological examination. In this I received valuable assistance from the County Medical Officer of Health, and one of the Medical Inspectors of Schools, and the necessary exclusion from school of those suffering in a mild form, and of cases where there was a risk from contact, was carried out.

A very excellent arrangement is in force between the Medical Officer of Health, and the head masters and mistresses of the Schools, with a view to the early examination and exclusion from school of all children presenting suspicious symptoms.

I am glad to report that the School Authorities are, by one way or another, bringing pressure to bear upon those responsible for the dirty, and in some cases verminous condition of the children attending school, and simple but efficacious remedies are suggested to the parents concerned.

I would here point out the good that is done towards the detection of latent disease and defect amongst schoolchildren by the periodic visits of the School Medical Officers appointed by the County, and a general improvement in the health of the community may be confidently anticipated.

Perhaps the one disease requiring the most attention on the part of all concerned is Pulmonary Tuberculosis, commonly called Consumption. The complaint is always present, and in this district is somewhat prominent. Eight deaths have been recorded from this cause this year, and these various centres of contamination have been, where possible, thoroughly disinfected, and the risk of infection to others thereby lessened.

Early detection and isolation, with treatment on scientific lines, is, however, the only rational line of procedure. I am sorry to have to report again this year that the County of Middlesex, so far as I know, does not yet possess a Sanatorium where the poorer classes can derive not only the benefit of treatment, and possible cure, but a knowledge of a management of themselves which must materially diminish the menace that they are to the health of their friends and the general community. I was present at a meeting held at Hillingdon in the latter part of the year, convened for the purpose of discussing the raising of funds for the erection of a Sanatorium, to be supported by voluntary contributions. The meeting was well attended, and most interesting speeches were made in support of the scheme, but there was a sad apathy displayed, which appeared to be the outcome of a fear that the maintenance of the institution might ultimately be dependent upon local rates, and little or nothing resulted.

In spite of a heavy rainfall during the year, the system for disposal of sewage on the broad irrigation principle has worked without a hitch, as far as I know. No complaints have been made, either as to the efficient working of all drains and sewers, or with reference to any nuisance created on the site of the Sewage Farm, which enjoys a peculiarly isolated position on the extreme western border of the district. The district is well supplied with water of an excellent character, something like 95 per cent. of the houses in the neighbourhood being supplied by the Public Water Service, and the same number being connected with the main sewer.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been brought to an up-to-date standard; are well kept, well ventilated, and maintained in a thoroughly sanitary state.

House Refuse is collected weekly in the more thickly populated parts of the district, and fortnightly in the outlying neighbourhood. All the bakehouses and laundries are well kept, clean and sanitary, and there are no underground bakehouses.

The Mortuary accommodation is satisfactory. There is only one slaughter-house in the district, and that is kept in a satisfactory state. At the present time there are many houses unoccupied, and there is not much building going on. An occasional case of over-crowding, generally due to an attempt to take in lodgers into an already amply filled house, is dealt with as it arises.

It is to be hoped that suitable provision for infectious cases will before long be provided, and a joint Hospital Scheme in conjunction with neighbouring districts is under consideration at the present time.

There has been no abatement in the nuisance created by the unloading of very filthy and offensive manure from railway trucks in the Sunbury Station Siding. Not only is the smell very objectionable, but a troublesome litter is created on the roads, due to overloading of the carts. I consider this a public nuisance, and would suggest that the London and South-Western Railway Co. should be again approached on the subject.

I have pleasure in testifying to the excellent sanitary work carried out by Mr. Coales, the Sanitary Inspector, and would tender my thanks to him for the careful way in which he has prepared the various sanitary tables included in this report.

My grateful thanks are also due to the District Council for their hearty co-operation with me when matters affecting the general health of the district are brought before them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. L. BYHAM.

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council.

SANITARY WORK, 1909.

The Inspector of Nuisances is Mr. HAROLD F. COALES, M.R. San.Inst., who is also Surveyor to the Council. He is assisted in the office by a youth aged 15 years.

No. 1.

*Inspections—

Number of Premises inspected on complaint (1)	26
Number of Premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases (2)	6
Number of Premises under periodical Inspection (3)	17
Houses inspected from house-to-house (4)	276
Total number of Inspections and Re-inspections made (5)	1190

*N.B.—(3) Includes all classes of premises under periodical supervision, such as Cowsheds, Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Workshops and Workplaces, etc.
(5) Includes all visits and re-visits made by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with 1—4.

Notices—

Cautionary or Intimation Notices given	44
Statutory Orders issued	—
Summonses served	—
Convictions obtained	—

Dwelling Houses—

Houses, Premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, etc.	30
Re-opened after repairs, alterations, etc.	—
Demolished	1
Illegal Underground Dwellings vacated	—

No. 2.

Movable Dwellings, Caravans, Tents, etc.—

Number observed during the year	16
Number of Nuisances therefrom abated	—
Number removed from District	16

Bakehouses—

Number in District	5
Contraventions of Factory Acts	—

Slaughterhouses—

Number on Register (no register kept, but only one slaughterhouse in district).	
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (half-yearly)	2
Contraventions of Bye-laws	—

Cowsheds—

Number on Register	7
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (regularly twice yearly, oftener as required)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—
Number of Milch Cows in District	124

Dairies and Milkshops—

Number on Register	5
Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection (regularly twice yearly, oftener as required)	20
Contraventions of Regulations	—

Water Supply and Water Service—

Wells—Cleansed, Repaired, etc.	1
Closed as Polluted	1
Percentage of Houses supplied from Public Water Service	95
Cisterns—Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, etc.	6
Percentage of Houses supplied on Constant System	95
Number of Samples obtained for analysis from Local Wells	2

No. 3.**Drainage and Sewerage of Existing Buildings—**

Water Closets—	
Repaired, supplied with water, or otherwise improved	13
Percentage of Houses provided with Water Closets (where sewers exist)	95
Drains—	
Examined, Tested, Exposed, etc. (existing houses)	9
Unstopped, Repaired, Trapped, etc.	10
Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes Disconnected, Repaired, etc. ...	9
New Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts Fixed	9
Existing Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts Repaired	1
Disconnecting Traps or Chambers Inserted	—
Reconstructed	1

Cesspools—

Rendered Impervious, Emptied, Cleansed, etc.	—
Abolished, and Drain connected to Sewer	9
Percentage of Houses Draining into Sewers (where sewers exist) ...	94

Disinfection—

Rooms Disinfected—Ordinary infectious diseases 1, Phthisis 3	4
Rooms Stripped and Cleansed	5
Articles Disinfected or Destroyed	—

Dust—

New Bins provided	10
How frequently is dust removed from each house?	† Weekly
Number of Complaints of Non-Removal received	4
Method of Disposal	Tipping

Sundry Nuisances Abated—

Overcrowding	2
Accumulations of Refuse	3
Dampness	4
Yards repaved or repaired	2
Other Nuisances	2

† Fortnightly from Upper Halliford and Charlton.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and
previous Years.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages			Number.	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number.	Rate.*			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13
1899	4622	130	28.1	12	92.3	63	13.6	--	63	13.6
1900	4540	142	31.2	13	91.5	63	14	—	63	14
1901	4619	131	28.3	17	129.8	63	13.6	—	63	13.6
1902	4700	134	28.6	15	80	58	12.5	—	58	12.5
1903	4781	141	29.4	17	120.5	60	12.5	—	60	12.5
1904	4580	145	31.6	23	158.6	86	18.7	2	88	19.3
1905	4750	138	29	17	123.2	52	10.9	6	58	12.2
1906	4680	115	24.5	11	99.6	52	11.1	19	71	15.1
1907	4680	123	26.2	9	73.1	49	10.4	6	55	11.7
1908	4730	109	23.0	7	64.2	53	11.2	11	64	13.5
Averages for years 1899 1908	4670.2	130.8	27.9	14.1	103.2	59.9	12.8	—	64.3	13.8
1909	4730	118	24.9	9	76.2	48	10.1	8	56	11.8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2660

Total population at all ages	4544	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	938	
Average number of persons per house	4.84	

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	7	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	—	4	5	—	4	—	—

Isolation Hospital—None.

TABLE IV,
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.
SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Mem- braneous croup) ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	3	1	—	—	—	—	2
Gastritis	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	8	—	—	1	3	4	—
Cancer, malignant disease..	5	—	—	—	—	1	4
Bronchitis	3	—	—	—	—	1	2
Pneumonia	5	2	—	—	—	2	1
Heart diseases	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
Suicides	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
All other causes	23	6	—	—	—	10	7
All causes	56	9	1	1	3	23	19

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under
One Year of Age.

SUNBURY-ON-THAMES.

CAUSE OF DEATH.					1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	9-10 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.			
All Causes	{	Certified	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	7	
		Uncertified	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Diarrhœa, all forms					..	..	..	—	—	—	1	1
Premature Birth					..	..	..	2	—	—	—	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus					..			1	—	—	1	2		
Convulsions					—	1	1	—	2	
Pneumonia					—	—	—	1	2	
								3	1	1	1	1	2	9

Population, estimated to middle of 1909—4,730.

Births in the year—Legitimate 112.
Illegitimate 6.Deaths in the year—Legitimate infants 7.
Illegitimate infants 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—56.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND.
METEOROLOGICAL AND DISEASE CHART FOR 1913.



